

THE riRASAIFA
MOFEAIBNT

51

my Chennamallikarjuna does not accept
me, I have become
a suppliant before everyone, my Sister."
She tells her sister that her
perturbed heart has lost
all balance. The cooling breeze is as
fire to her and
moonlight burns like Sun. She
begs her to go and
tell Him of her condition and bring
her Chennamalli-
karjuna. Blsewhere she asks all
creation to tell her
"where her lover is:

*'Oh parrots singing so joyously, do
you know, do you know?
know? Swans playing on the margin
of the lake, do
you know, do you know? Oh cuckoos
who lift up your
voices and sing, do you know, do you
know? Oh
pea-
cocks playing in hill and valley, O are
you aware where
my lover Chennamallikarjuna is. I
pray you, tell me."

This is the very ecstasy of love and
Maliadeviakka felt
it for her God. Another saint talking of God
as lover
says that his lover is not like others. All
the world
is His beloved. He is wonderful. He
unites with
each as each desires. Another thinks of his
being as
God's beloved, his body having ceased to be
his. The
world called him man but he was not
one. "This

form is yours. The formless one within is
myself.
The outer man's form being you, the inner
woman
being myself, I am your queen, O
Invisible."

God saves us or should save us not
because we
are good but in spite of our offending Him
and because
He is merciful. If the sandalwood is cut
and a piece

is rubbed, does it say ' I am hurt * and
cease to be
fragrant? If gold is taken, cut, rubbed
and heated,
does it lose lustre? If sugarcane is cut and
given to
the mill and the juice is heated, does it
say *I am
injured/ and refuse to be sweet? Not all
the evil
that man may do will make God cease
from mercy.